

Seabirds:

1. Gentoo Penguins are still leaving in the mornings on foraging trips and returning to the breeding colonies in the afternoons. Pair bonds are being established but no nests are being built yet. To date, no gentoo penguins have initiated clutches.
2. Chinstrap penguins are establishing territories and beginning to collect rocks to build nests. To date, no chinstrap penguins have initiated clutches.
3. We continue to monitor known-age penguins that were banded here as chicks and have now returned to breed. We continue to read bands to locate these known-aged birds and their nests. To date, no known-aged penguins have initiated clutches.
4. Brown skuas are reestablishing pair bonds and have been observed in pairs around Cape Shirreff and at the penguin colonies.

Pinnipeds:

5. As of this morning fifteen elephant seal females have weaned their pups and departed to sea. There are now four adult females remaining and all have suckling pups.
6. We have weighed, measured and tagged the 15 weaned elephant seal pups. All were weighed within 24 hours of weaning. Weaning mass, thus far, has ranged from 87.1-206.8 kilograms. The mean mass is 140.8 kg (st.dev.: 30.5, N=15). Nine of the 15 pups have been male.
7. On the last weekly Phocid census of the Cape on 8 Nov, we recorded 14 Weddells, 26 elephant seals, and no crabeater or leopard seals.
8. We recorded the first female Antarctic fur seal to arrive on one of the AMLR study beaches on 4 November. However, she arrived outside our study area and to date there have not been any females recorded within the U.S. AMLR study site.
9. Males are continuing to arrive every day. Our last census of males was 7 Nov and there had been 38% increase in males on territory since 5 Nov. There are now 98 adult males on territory within the US-AMLR study area. We have recorded seven adult males with tags. All were tagged as pups in 1997/98 and 1999/00 (10 & 12 years old).
10. We downloaded an over-winter VHF data recorder that has been operational since camp closing last March. Mean trip duration for 12 female fur seals that continued making trips until early-April was 4.5 days (N=61 trips).

Weather:

11. It continued to be below freezing most of the week with one brief period on Thursday that was above freezing. The mean temperature for the week was -2.1°C (last year for this week the mean was -0.5°C). The maximum temp for the week was 6.7°C and the low was the lowest since we arrived, -7.3°C . Last



Wednesday we had our biggest storm since camp opening, an easterly with maximum gusts of 64 mph. The mean wind speed for the week was 17.6 and most winds were westerlies (over 60% of our winds clocked). The last two days on the Cape have been unusually calm and pleasant.

Camp:

12. We have had a fishing vessel off the Cape - yesterday for most of the day it was tucked into Hero Bay with another ship along side it.
13. Drifting snow continues to keep us busy digging out doors and windows of our camp.
14. The below freezing temperatures have taken their toll on our produce but we haven't had to plug in our freezer.

Submitted by AMLR staff currently residing at the Cape Shirreff field station, Livingston Island.

